

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-15 ISO-00 EURE-00 L-03 OIC-04 STR-08 AGR-20

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INR-10 NEA-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 OPIC-12 SPC-03 TRSE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 824

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EC BRUSSELS 8613

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, OECD

SUBJECT: INTERNAL POLICIES/TRADE IMPACT: TRADE COMMITTEE WORKING
PARTY (TCWP) MEETING OCTOBER 8

REF: A. OECD 25970; B. STATE 19950

1. SUMMARY, TCWP MADE MODEST PROGRESS AT ITS MEETING
OCTOBER 8 IN CARRYING FORWARD STUDY ON IMPACT OF INTERNAL
POLICIES ON TRADE ALONG LINES SET OUT REF A. TCWP
DIRECTED SECRETARIAT TO PREPARE FIRST DRAFT ON VARIOUS
POLICYTOOLS WHICH DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY AFFECT
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION (PARAS 21-24, TFD/TD 740), PAPER
TO BE CIRCULATED BEFORE CHRISTMAS. IN ADDITION,
SECRETARIAT WILL PREPARE NOTE DESCRIBING PROGRESS TO
DATE OF INDUSTRY COMMITTEE'S ANALYSIS OF INDUSTRIAL
POLICY TOOLS AND CONTINUE TO BUILD UP DOCUMENTATION
ON POLICY TOOLS USED IN OTHER AREAS INCLUDING ENVIRON-
MENT, FISCAL POLICIES, CONSUMER AND COMPETITION POLICY.
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END SUMMARY.

2. TCWP CONTINUED TO GROPE FOR MEANINGFUL WAY TO COME TO GRIPS WITH COMPLEX SUBJECT. DESPITE FOOT-DRAGGING BY SEVERAL DELS PARTICULARLY FROM EC, STRONG LEAD BY JAPANESE DEL ASSISTED BY LOW-KEY SUPPORTING INTERVENTIONS BY US DEL WASSUFFICIENT TO GOAD TCWP ALONG TO SATISFACTORY OUTCOME OF MEETING CONSONANT WITH US OBJECTIVES (REF B). MAIN ACHIEVEMENT WAS TO CARRY DISCUSSION FROM HEADY GENERALIZATIONS TO A MORE REFINED APPROACH WITH FOCUS ON POLICY TOOLS AS DISTINCT FROM POLICY AREAS, THEREBY OFFERING SOME PROMISE OF MORE CONCRETE AND USEABLE ANALYSIS.

3. EC COMMISSION AND MEMBER COUNTRY DELS CONTINUED TO DISPLAY GREAT SENSITIVITY ABOUT EXERCISE, STRESSING ITS COMPLEXITY AND EXPLORATORY CHARACTER, AND NEED TO AVOID BECOMING TOO CONCRETE OR PREJUDGING POSSIBLE RESULTS OR UTILITY OF STUDY. FRENCH DEL, IN WHAT APPEARED TO BE A SINCERE ATTEMPT TO BE CONSTRUCTIVE, URGED TCWP TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS ESSENTIALLY ON PERSONAL INTELLECTUAL BASIS IN ORDER TO AVOID PREMATURE FIXING OF GOVERNMENT POSITIONS LIKELY TO LEAD TO CONFLICT. SHE ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT EXERCISE SHOULD BE ANALYTICAL AND NON-JUDGEMENTAL WITHOUT LINKS DIRECT OR INDIRECT TO MTN WHICH WAS BARGAINING AS DISTINCT FROM ANALYTICAL EXERCISE. JAPANESE DEL THOUGHT VALUE OF STUDY WOULD BECOME APPARENT TOWARD END OR AFTER MTN. MEANWHILE, TCWP COULD BUILD UP SYSTEMATIC BODY OF ANALYSIS AND KNOWLEDGE. THIS COULD FORCE CAPITALS TO START THINKING ABOUT SUBJECTS WHICH DOUBTLESS WOULD BECOME THE MORE IMPORTANT AFTER FURTHER SUBSTANTIAL TRADE LIBERALIZATION. HE URGED TCWP TO SUPPORT "POLICY TOOL" APPROACH AS MOST PROMISING COURSE FOR FURTHER PROGRESS. DRAWING FROM REF B AND PREVIOUS GUIDANCE, US DEL PROVIDED LOW-KEY SUPPORT TO JAPANESE COLLEAGUE TO HELP CHAIR IN FENDING OFF BACKSLIDING TACTICS OF STME EC DELS. UK DEL, FOR EXAMPLE, INITIALLY ADVOCATED NEW SECRETARIAT PAPER ELABORATING CRITERIA TO GOVERN ANALYSIS BEFORE PROCEEDING TO ANALYSIS ITSELF. IN SIMILAR VEIN, DUTCH DEL PROPOSED FURTHER DISCUSSION OF PART I OF SECRETARIAT'S EARLIER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAPER (TFD/TD 718) BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER. THESE SUGGESTIONS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY DROPPED ON URGING OF CHAIR.

4. MAIN BURDEN OF CARRYING EXERCISE FORWARD NOW FALLS ON SECRETARIAT WHICH HAS DIFFICULT TASK OF ANALYSIS NOT UNDERTAKEN BEFORE IN OECD. SECRETARIAT SOMEWHAT AWED BY RESPONSIBILITY BUT HAS PROMISED ITS BEST EFFORT. ANY HELP DEPARTMENT COULD PROVIDE ON QUIET INFORMAL BASIS

WOULD BE WELCOME.

5. RE PARA 2 (F) (II), STATE 198640, TCWP UNANIMOUSLY AGREED THAT SUBJECT WAS NOT YET RIPE FOR EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION AT OCTOBER 22-23 TC MEETING; NOR DID GROUP FEEL IT WOULD BE USEFUL AT THIS STAGE FOR TC TO DISCUSS TFD/TD/740. GROUP AGREED THAT BEST COURSE WOULD BE FOR CHAIRMAN OR SECRETARIAT TO GIVE BRIEF ORAL REPORT TO TC ON PROGRESS OF WORK TO DATE WHICH TC COULD NOTE WITHOUT DISCUSSION. THIS PROCEDURE WOULD NOT PRECLUDE TC DELS FROM MAKING BRIEF COMMENTS ON SUBJECT, BUT CONSENSUS OF TCWP WAS THAT THESE WOULD PROBABALY SERVE LITTLE PURPOSE AT THIS STAGE.

6. RE PARA 4, REF B, US DEL POINTED OT HIGH PRIORITY OF XCSS WORK ON INVESTMENT. OTHER DELS AND SECRETARIAT SHARED VIEW THAT TCWP SHOULD BE ALERT TO AVOID DUPLICATING OR DETRACTING FROM XCSS EXERCISE.
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